

## Child & Youth Unintentional Injury in Atlantic Canada: 10 years in review Nova Scotia (NS)

The number one cause of death for children aged 1-14 is pedestrian injuries.  
The number one reason children are hospitalized is because of a fall-related injury.

### Leading causes of injury death

Deaths	Atlantic Canada	Canada
1	Pedestrian	Child Passenger (Motor Vehicle)
2	Threats to breathing	Drowning / submersion
3	Drowning / submersion	Pedestrian
4	Fire / Burn	Threats to breathing
5	Child Passenger (Motor Vehicle)	Fire / Burn



### Leading causes of injury hospitalization

Hospitalizations	Nova Scotia	NB	PEI	NL	Canada	Atlantic Canada
1	Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls	Falls
2	Playground Falls	Poisonings	Poisonings	Bicycles	Playground Falls	Bicycles
3	Bicycles	Bicycles	Playground Falls	Poisonings	Bicycles	Poisonings
4	Poisonings	Playground Falls	Bicycles	Fire / Burns	Poisonings	Playground Falls
5	Fire / Burns	Child Passenger	Fire / Burns	Playground Falls	Child Passenger	Fire / Burns

- NS makes up almost 40% of Atlantic Canada’s child and youth population, and accounts for 38.2% of the region’s cost for unintentional injuries for this age group.
- Across Atlantic Canada, NS had the highest rate of admission for unintentional injuries related to threats to breathing (7.7 / 100 000).
- Within Atlantic Canada, NS has the lowest rates of hospitalization for unintentional injuries related to: burns, child passengers, and poisonings.

### Of Interest...Nova Scotia

- is the only province in Atlantic Canada with a province-wide Injury Prevention Strategy
- has one of the toughest helmet laws in North America
- was the first province to enact All-Terrain Vehicle legislation

## What's happening in Nova Scotia (NS)?

**ATV legislation:** In 2006, the province revised its Off-highway Vehicles Act to restrict ATV use in children under 14 years of age; the IWK Health Centre saw a 50% reduction in ATV-related emergency department visits for children under 14 in the first year of the legislation.

**Poison Awareness:** In 2006, the IWK Regional Poison Centre established an electronic charting system to document all calls to the Poison Centre; statistical information is now available for all NS and PEI cases reported. The Poison Centre distributes across NS a Poison Centre phone sticker and promotes a Poison Awareness Week annually.

**Child Passenger:** NS expanded their legislation / regulations around car restraint use to include booster seat legislation in 07. Children must be 18 kg (40 lbs) to use a booster seat. A child must use a booster seat until they reach 145 cm (4 ft 9 inches) tall or age 9 years.

**Wheeled Activities:** NS is currently the only province with helmet legislation for all wheeled activities (bicycles, skateboards, scooters and in-line skates).

**Child Safety Link (CSL):** This Maritime wide injury prevention program has established several resources addressing issues such as: fall prevention, home safety, poison awareness and child seat safety. CSL has also developed several public service announcements addressing injury prevention.

**ACIP:** ACIP is a collaboration of more than 200 individuals and organizations working for injury prevention and control. Their goal is to reduce the burden of injury in Atlantic Canada through interprovincial leadership, surveillance, research, policy development and capacity building.



For more information about child and youth injury prevention please go to:

Child Safety Link  
IWK Health Centre  
5850/5980 University Avenue  
PO Box 9700, Halifax, NS  
Canada B3K 6R8  
Email: [childsafetylink@iwk.nshealth.ca](mailto:childsafetylink@iwk.nshealth.ca)  
Website: [www.childsafetylink.ca](http://www.childsafetylink.ca)  
Toll-free: 1-866-288-1388  
Tel: 902 470-6336



For more information about ACIP:

Phone: 902 877-1562  
Email: [jheatley@acip.ca](mailto:jheatley@acip.ca)  
Website: [www.acip.ca](http://www.acip.ca)